

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A die holding tray, comprising:

a rigid base support member;

a generally ~~top~~ planar ~~top~~ surface supported by the base support member, said top surface having a set of machined lateral grooves and a set of machined longitudinal ~~grooves, said grooves being spaced apart by an amount approximately corresponding to the dimensions of the dies to be held in the tray; grooves;~~

~~a plurality of strips sized to fill one set of the grooves and placed in each of the grooves of the one set of grooves, thereby forming a plurality of pockets for receiving dies, said pockets having a bottom and side walls comprising a segment of an unfilled machined groove and end walls comprising segments of the sides of strips; strips, each of said plurality of pockets having the planar dimensions approximately corresponding to a length and a width of a die to be received; and~~

~~vacuum channels communicating into the bottom of the pockets for enabling a vacuum to be drawn upon dies in the pockets in order to enhance the tray holding capability.~~

wherein dies are received to both sides of at least one of the plurality of strips.

2. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the base support member and the top surface comprise the same material.

3. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the base support member is comprised of a metal.

4. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the base support member has a bottom and wherein the vacuum channels are wider near the bottom than near the top surface.

5. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the strips are made of a compliant material.

6. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 5, wherein the strips are made of metal.

7. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the tray comprises anti-static material arranged to transport charges from the pockets to the base support member.

8. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the interface between the walls of the pockets and the bottom is essentially orthogonal.

9. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein one set of grooves is a polished surface.

10. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, wherein the size of the vacuum channels as they enter the bottom of the pockets is essentially the largest size such channels can be while ensuring that the dies that are intended for the pockets cover the channels when the dies are placed against either side wall of the pockets.

11. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 1, further comprising a raised plate mounted to the base support member, said raised plate comprising the top surface.

12. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 11, wherein the raised plate comprises a different material compositions than the base support member.

13. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 12, wherein the raised plate comprises a compliant material.

14. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 12, wherein the raised plate comprises rubber.

15. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 14, wherein the raised plate comprises neoprene rubber.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The die holding tray of ~~claim 16, claim 12~~, wherein the raised support plate comprises a material having a co-efficient of friction on glass more than about 0.8.

18. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 11, wherein the raised plate further comprises a rigid inner stage covered with a compliant material into which the grooves are machined.

19. (Original) The die holding tray of claim 18, wherein the thickness of the compliant material between the bottom of the pockets and the inner stage is between about 0.10 and 0.20 millimeters.

20-29. (Canceled)